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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-2002  
March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
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The Honorable Adam Smith  
Chairman  
House Armed Services Committee  
2216 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mac Thornberry  
Ranking Member  
House Armed Services Committee  
2216 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Thornberry:

Thank you for accepting my written testimony pertaining to the Fiscal Year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act.

There is no doubt that Russia seeks to diminish NATO, divide Europe, marginalize the United States and re-create its sphere of influence in Europe and beyond by using coercion, intimidation and outright aggression. Deterring Russia from further aggression is vital for transatlantic security.

In addition to strengthening NATO, increasing the Alliance's ability to reinforce Allies in times of crisis, and establishing credible Allied military presence in the frontline states, the defense of the Euro-Atlantic area requires bolstering the national defenses of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Baltic states have taken considerable steps in this regard. All countries invest 2% or above of their GDP into military defense. A significant share of their defense budgets is allocated for acquisitions. For instance, during the next four years, Estonia will allocate \$1.39 billion for defense acquisition, with main priorities of large caliber ammunition and Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence (C4I).

The U.S. Congress has demonstrated ironclad commitment to the Baltic states by allocating resources for deterring Russia since Fiscal Year 2015. Previous examples of American assistance have been met with Baltic states' own additional investments. For instance, for every \$1 invested in Estonia's defense, Estonia has invested over \$2.6 into the same areas, thus significantly increasing the effect of our joint investments.

The Baltic states are among the smallest of Allies, and even with significant investments on their own, they will have major capability gaps for years to come. Filling these gaps in a sustainable manner should be considered in the following specific areas:

- 1) Even while Estonia's nominal investments to ammunition stocks surmounts nearly 25% of all defense procurements, Estonia is still far away from reaching even the absolute

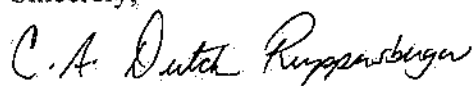
minimum target for ammunition days of supply. Estonia already plans to invest \$340 million into ammunition over the next five years. The United States should consider providing additional assistance for items such as Javelin missiles, 155mm artillery and 120mm mortar ammunition would provide Estonia with an additional one-day supply.

- 2) Estonia invests \$227 million into tactical C4I and secure communications in the next five years, but this still leaves a number of units under-equipped, and thus unable to achieve interoperability and compatibility with Allied forces. Further U.S. assistance for procuring secure tactical communication devices would equip the entire Estonian wartime structure with secure C4I.
- 3) On air-defense, Estonia has invested in modern air-surveillance capabilities, and will invest over \$12 million in the next five years to increase and sustain the capability. Further U.S. assistance for procuring IFF (*Identification, friend or foe*) MODE 5 would make Estonia's air-surveillance radars interoperable with the Allied air forces.
- 4) Estonia continues to improve maritime domain awareness capability and will invest \$10 million in the next five years into a technical solution, which improves collecting, analyzing and disseminating information of the maritime domain, as well as improving recognized maritime picture. Additional U.S. assistance in procuring mobile radars, IFF MODE5 and IR/EO (*infrared, electro optical*) would provide the Estonian Navy the ability to exchange recognized maritime picture with Allies.
- 5) In order to carry out operations under any condition and uninterrupted, Estonia invests \$5 million into night vision equipment in the next four years. However, additional U.S. assistance is needed in order to supply the entire Estonian force with this equipment.
- 6) In the next five years, Estonia will invest \$44 million to increase the early warning capabilities of the military intelligence. Further U.S. assistance for procuring sensors would increase Estonian Defense Forces' intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capability and provide Allies improved early warning.

I firmly believe that our Baltic Allies are a critical tool to deter Russia from further malign action in the European theater. Not only will our investment in their capabilities make them safer, but it will improve the strategic footing of the United States should the worst case scenario ever come to pass.

Thank you for your consideration of my priorities. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Justin Brower, Military Legislative Assistant, at 202-225-3061, or at [justin.brower@mail.house.gov](mailto:justin.brower@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,



C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger  
Member of Congress